

**Air Quality Conformity Task Force  
Summary Meeting Notes  
June 18, 2015**

Participants:

Andrea Gordon – BAAQMD  
Shalanda Christian – Caltrans  
Kevin Nguyendo – Caltrans  
Rodney Tavitias – Caltrans  
Ginger Vagenas – EPA  
Cindy Adams – HDR

Stew Sonnenberg – FHWA  
Dick Fahey – Caltrans  
Adam Crenshaw – MTC  
Mallory Atkinson – MTC  
Harold Brazil – MTC

**1. Welcome and Self Introductions:** Harold Brazil (MTC) called the meeting to order at 9:40 am.

**2. PM<sub>2.5</sub> Project Conformity Interagency Consultations**

**a. Consultation to Determine Project of Air Quality Concern Status**

**i. I-680 NB HOV Lane Extension Project**

The Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) submitted for the I-680 North Segment Express Lanes project for project-level conformity review in March 2015 and, at that time, CCTA identified the southern project limits to be “just south of Treat Boulevard” and the Task Force determined the project not to be of air quality concern.

Since then, CCTA has been working through the design phase of the project and the project engineers have identified the need to extend the southern limits of the project to PM R10.0 which is Stone Valley Road.

This extension is needed to a) close the CHP observation area, and b) a traffic study found the need for physical restrictions around Rudgear Road [the current southern project limit] to Stone Valley Road. The physical restriction will be a solid double white stripe between the express lane and the mixed flow lane to its right. The purpose of the restriction is to prevent vehicles from weaving into and out of the express lane within the restriction limits.

This extension to Stone Valley Road adds roughly 2.5 miles to the southern limit of the HOV conversion to an express lane. (For a total of 17.5 directional miles of express lanes constructed in this project)

Ginger Vagenas (EPA) that the I-680 NB HOV Lane Extension project be put on the agenda for June 18, 2015 Task Force meeting to discuss the limits extension to the project. At the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, Cindy Adams (HDR) indicated that the extended limits to the project will further help with the traffic operations in the alternating toll zones in the southern part of the project area. Ms. Vagenas thanked Ms. Adams for the additional information.

**Final Determination:** The I-680 NB HOV Lane Extension project was assigned as a 326 Categorical Exclusion (CE) and Caltrans has the responsibility for making the project's project-level (Hot Spot) conformity determination. With input from EPA and Caltrans, the Task Force concluded that the I-680 NB HOV Lane Extension project was not of air quality concern.

### **3. Projects with Regional Air Quality Conformity Concerns**

#### **a. Review of the Regional Conformity Status for New and Revised Projects**

Adam Crenshaw (MTC) discussed information to assist Task Force review of regional conformity status for new and revised projects:

- AC Transit Richmond Parkway Transit Center Project (CC-030001)
- New Projects Staff is Proposing to Include in Future Revisions

Mr. Crenshaw (MTC) indicated that MTC staff had received requests from sponsors to add 10 new exempt projects to grouped listings in future revisions. Ginger Vagenas (EPA) asked Mr. Crenshaw if all the projects listed in “**3a\_Attachment-A\_List\_of\_Proposed\_New\_Projects.pdf**” classify as transportation projects and Mr. Crenshaw indicated that all the projects were funded through the State Highway Operation and Protection Program Plan (SHOPP Plan).

### **4. Release of Draft Transportation Conformity Analysis for the Amended Plan Bay Area and 2015 Transportation Improvement Program**

Harold Brazil (MTC) indicated that MTC staff had completed the Draft Transportation Conformity Analysis for the Amended Plan Bay Area and 2015 TIP. Mr. Brazil went onto say that the analysis includes I-580 access improvements to the Richmond-San Rafael (RSR) Bridge and bicycle and pedestrian access between Contra Costa and Marin Counties. Mr. Brazil also stated that the project results in negligible changes in the air quality conformity analysis as compared to that completed in December 2014 for the 2015 TIP and Plan Bay Area. Ginger Vagenas (EPA) appreciated the additional results graphs included in the draft conformity analysis.

### **5. Providing Additional Guidance to Project Sponsors for Consultation Process**

Harold Brazil (MTC) discussed updating the existing guidance available to project sponsors for going through the project level conformity consultation process. The following comments were made by Task Force on this issue:

- Detailed instructions on how to fill out the report need to be stated when the project sponsor begins the project-level conformity module in FMS. (G Vagenas)
- The existing instructions do not glean out what the project sponsor needs to do to complete the process. (A. Gordon)

Mr. Brazil indicated he would incorporate the Task Force’s comments to assist in reformatting the existing guidance.

## 6. Consent Calendar

### a. May 28, 2015 Air Quality Conformity Task Force Meeting Summary

***Final Determination:*** With input from all members, the Task Force concluded that the consent calendar was approved.

## 7. Other Items

Harold Brazil (MTC) notified the Task Force that he would be following-up (via email) on two projects previously going through consultation:

- San Francisco Department of Public Works - Second Street Improvements Project; **SF-130011** (from 1-22-15 Task Force Meeting)
- City of Vallejo - Vallejo SRTS Infrastructure Improvements Project; **SOL130015** (from 5-28-15 Task Force Meeting)